

Media Release
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The search for QLD's best nurses

Nominations open for 2011 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards

Those living in Queensland are being encouraged to nominate their most remarkable nursing professionals – in the 2011 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards.

The Awards, now in their fifth year, acknowledge outstanding nurses, midwives, personal care attendants and assistants in nursing.

"Nurses don't go looking for glory. But the role they play in our communities is incredibly important", said HESTA CEO, Anne-Marie Corboy.

"The HESTA Australian Nursing Awards are an avenue to recognise those in the nursing sector."

With a prize pool of \$25,000 – across the categories of Nurse of the Year, Innovation in Nursing and Graduate Nurse of the Year – the Awards reward the skills, commitment and contribution of Australia's top nurses.

"Each year we receive hundreds of amazing nominations. The stories are truly inspiring. They are about nurses working in trying circumstances, nurses with innovative ideas and nurses who make an extraordinary effort," said Ms Corboy.

"We hear of these stories because patients, families of patients, colleagues and employers take the time to tell us. This is a wonderful aspect of the HESTA Australian Nursing Awards – that everyone who is nominated has made a difference."

Nurses from Queensland have been well represented as recent Award finalists:

- Suanne Robertson was a 2010 finalist in the Innovation in Nursing category. Ms Robertson, a former clinical nurse, developed the Healthy Lifestyle Initiative for the Southside Education Centre. Her engaging, educational programs focused on the lifestyle needs of students – mainly young, Indigenous and homeless women – their families and teachers;
- Graduate nurse Katharine Orr, from Cunnamulla Hospital, 900 kilometres west of Brisbane, was a finalist in 2009. Ms Orr was recognised for establishing a healthy ageing program for elderly and long-stay patients, and working to bridge the cultural divide between indigenous patients and non-indigenous staff; and
- Nurse researcher Raymond Chan, from Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital Cancer Care Services in 2009. Mr Chan, along with his colleagues, developed an orientation program to help new patients become familiar with the hospital and understand what to expect from their treatment.

"Thousands of Australians will turn to a nurse for help this year," said Ms Corboy. "We invite those who have experienced 'above and beyond' care or who may work alongside an amazing nurse to nominate them for an award."

Nominations for Nurse of the Year can be made by anyone in the community. Teams and individuals usually self-nominate for Innovation in Nursing. Graduate Nurse Coordinators may nominate their most promising graduates for Graduate Nurse of the Year.

Prizes, provided by ME Bank, are:

- Nurse of the Year – \$5,000 travel voucher and \$5,000 education grant;
- Innovation in Nursing – \$10,000 development grant; and
- Graduate Nurse of the Year – \$2,500 travel voucher and \$2,500 education grant.

Nominations for the 2011 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards will close on Monday 28 February 2011. Finalists will be announced in April. All those from interstate, who are in the running for an award, will be flown to Melbourne. The winners will be revealed at the gala awards ceremony on 12 May, which is also Florence Nightingale's birthday.

To make a nomination or learn more about the Awards visit **hestanursingawards.com**

HESTA is one of Australia's largest superannuation funds with more than 700,000 members. It is chosen by more people working in the health and community services sector, than any other fund.

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